

ALTON LEAR HOUSE
2016-2018 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans
Orleans Parish
Louisiana

HABS No. LA-1224

HABS
LA
35-NEWOR,
96-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Department of the Interior
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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Location: 2016-2018 Louisiana Avenue, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

USGS New Orleans West, Louisiana Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
15/780575/3314620

Significance: The dwelling located at 2016-2018 Louisiana Avenue is a contributing element to the Uptown New Orleans Historic District, a 750 block area listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 for its state architectural significance for the period ca. 1820 to 1935. The single-story, double shotgun dwelling was constructed ca. 1923. The dwelling is an example of the most common residential building type in the Uptown district. Forty-eight per cent of the district's 10,716 buildings adopt a shotgun form. The Alton Lear House is representative of the residential, double shotgun buildings constructed during the final phase of the district's development.

Description: The Alton Lear House is a single-story, two-bay, frame dwelling utilizing a design and plan characteristic of the double shotgun form. The building is supported by brick piers and terminates in a gable roof with a gable front orientated toward Louisiana Avenue. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles; the front gable end is extended to create an entrance porch. The gable-end extends beyond the front wall plane and is supported by brackets. A multi-light, fixed window is housed in the gable end.

The exterior walls of the building are clad in weatherboard; narrower weatherboards are found on the building front. The front of the building is spanned by an open porch supported by brick piers incorporating posts with simplified bases and capitals. The posts support the extended gable roof.

The entrances to each unit are identical and include multi-light doors flanked by multi-light sidelights and topped by five-light transoms. Windows are confined to the sides of the building and are six-light-over-two-light, wooden sash enframed by simple board surrounds.

The interior plan of the structure accommodates two identical units. The building is evenly divided by an interior bearing wall corresponding to the roof ridge. Each unit extends the six-bay depth of the structure. The interior plan includes a series of sequential, interconnecting rooms. The interior finishes of the building include plaster walls, narrow board oak floors, and simple board and quarter round woodwork. Two shallow fireplaces are located along the interior wall of each unit. These fireplaces incorporate brick corbelling and simple shelves.

History:

City records document that sewerage and water services were connected to 2016-2018 Louisiana Avenue in 1923, suggesting a probable construction date for the dwelling. The original and long-term owner of the structure was Alton Lear, a clerk in the Railway Mail Service, who lived at 2018 Louisiana for almost half a century from 1923 until his death, ca. 1951. Thereafter, Mrs. Juanita Lear lived at the address.

Longtime tenants (1938-1956) of 2016 Louisiana were members of the Bowie family, who may have been connected to the Lears by marriage. In recent years, the structure has not been owner-occupied. Joshua Butler of Marrero held title to the property until 1991. Mr. Butler maintained the dwelling as residential rental units.

This documentation was undertaken by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., on behalf of the United States Postal Service, in compliance with Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and with a Memorandum of Agreement between the United States Postal Service and the State of Louisiana Historic Preservation Officer. The documentation was prepared as a mitigative effect in the construction of a United States Postal facility on Block 509, New Orleans, Louisiana.

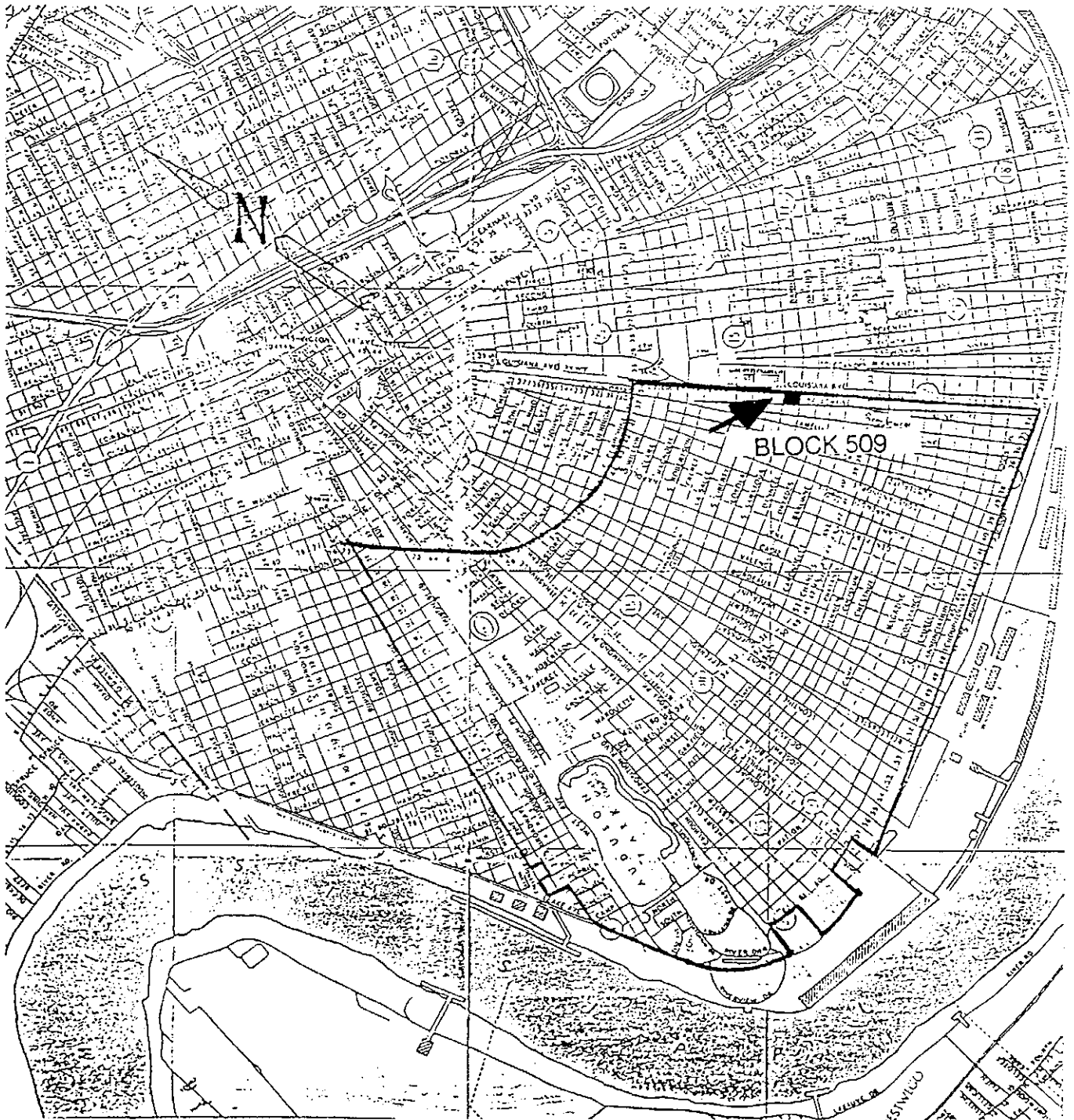
Sources:

New Orleans City Directories. Louisiana Division, Howard-Tilton Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

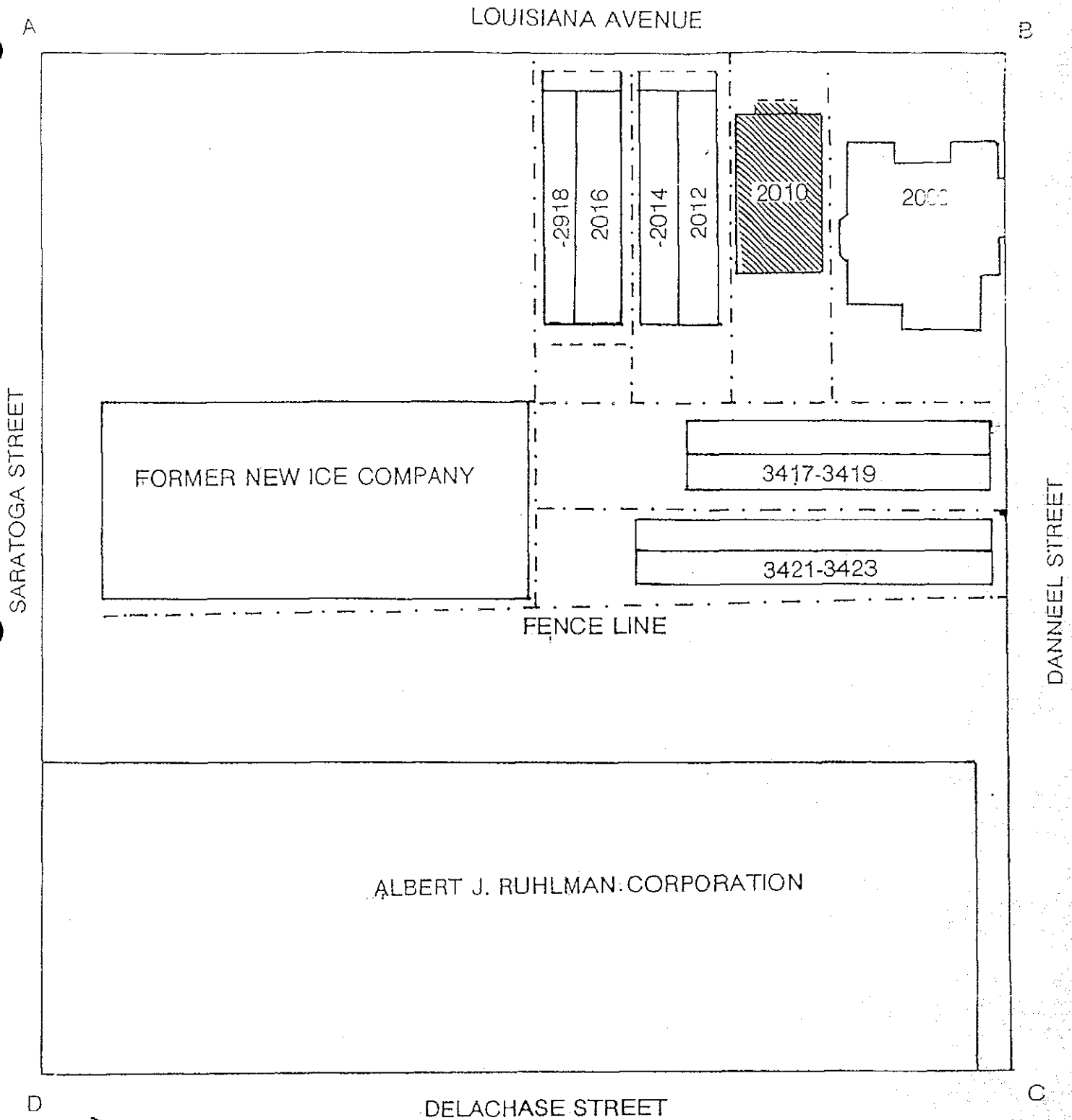
Sewerage and Water Board, House Connection Records. Louisiana Division, New Orleans Public Library, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Historian:

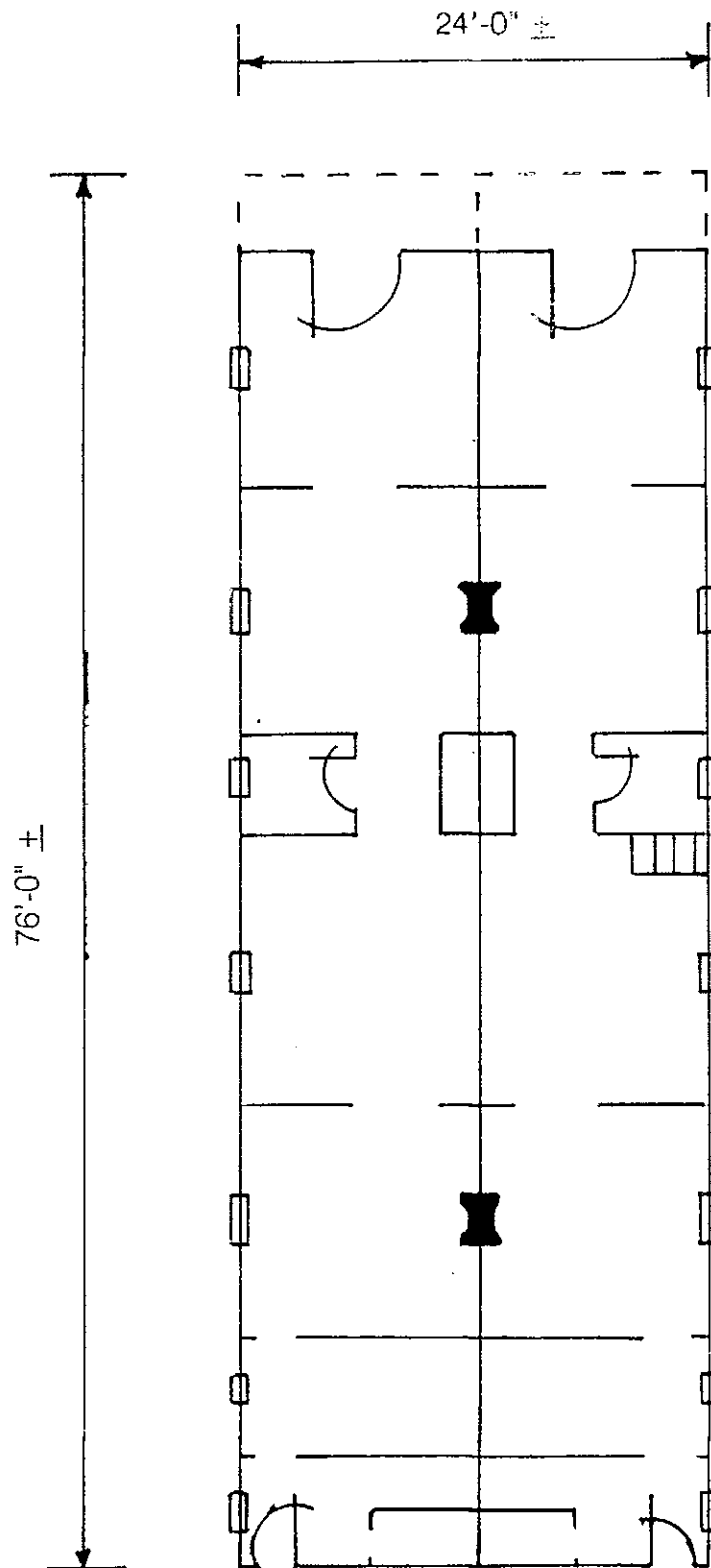
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UPTOWN NEW ORLEANS HISTORIC DISTRICT



SKETCH PLAN
SQUARE 509
NOT TO SCALE



2016 - 2018 LOUISIANA AVENUE

SKETCH PLAN
NOT TO SCALE